

**CITY OF MEDINA
PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 20, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Medina City Hall
501 Evergreen Point Road

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair, Heija Nunn at 7:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair, Heija Nunn, Susannah Stuart, Lisa Fleischman, Steve Brustkern

Absent: Connie Gerlitz, Tim O'Brien

Staff Present: Public Works Director, Sheldon Jahn; Administrative Assistant, Rachel Baker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jahn updated Board on tennis court signage, which was installed to fencing and gate exteriors and further explained that Public Works would like to install additional signage inside fencing and gates. Jahn indicated Public Works plans to cut limbs from trees surrounding tennis courts at Fairweather for court maintenance due to falling leaves (7:08 p.m.).

Board members complimented Public Works on tennis courts and park benches installed in the courts. Nunn complimented Public Works for their efforts maintaining the lawn in Medina Park. (7:11 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

STUART MOTION, FLEISCHMAN SECOND, TO APPROVE AUGUST 16, 2004 PARK BOARD MINUTES, MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR AT 7:12 P.M.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

PARK UPDATES

Stuart asked Jahn about the sign installed at Medina Park. Jahn answered the sign is temporary and was installed as a reminder that school is back in session (7:13 p.m.).

Stuart also inquired about the flags at the crosswalk on Northeast 12th Street. Jahn responded the flags were installed per a resident request. He indicated he is searching for better quality flags, since these will fade. The intent is to keep flags up throughout the school year (7:14 p.m.).

Jahn updated Board on the stamped concrete crosswalks proposed for the five-corners intersection near Medina Park. He described the process for installation and maintenance and further commented on a discount offered by the manufacturer. The savings incurred from the discount would allow the City to install additional stamped concrete sidewalks at the intersections of 80th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 12th Street, on 84th Avenue Northeast, and a third at Medina Elementary when school construction has been completed. Jahn said the crosswalks would be in a decorative brick-pattern and brick-colored. The board commented positively toward the examples shown (7:16 p.m.).

Nunn inquired if board members have noticed any wear and tear of grass in the dog park. Jahn responded that the grass is older on the east side and Public Works hasn't noticed any damage of this nature in the dog park (7:25 p.m.).

Nunn commented on trees and plaques in Medina Park's off-leash dog area. Jahn mentioned that there have been a number of tree and plaque donations installed in the park, including five new remembrance trees near the children's play area (7:26 p.m.).

Nunn offered kudos to dog owners for the idea to start a leash exchange in Medina's dog park. Nunn commented she would like the Park Board to encourage the leash exchange further by installing signs and hooks in the park for park users (7:27 p.m.).

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on New Park Board Member Selection (7:29 p.m.)

Jahn updated Board with new Park Board member selection. No new applications were received by the September 15th deadline; however, two applications remained on file from the last recruitment. One of the two applicants moved out of Medina, the other applicant indicated he was still interested in the position and submitted an updated application. The application was forwarded to the Mayor for consideration and appointment by City Council.

Selection of New Park Board Chair

FLEISCHMAN MOVED, BRUSTKERN SECOND TO NOMINATE NUNN TO REMAIN PARK BOARD VICE CHAIR UNTIL JANUARY ELECTION IS HELD TO ELECT NEW PARK BOARD CHAIR, MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR (7:34 P.M.).
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Update on Earth Corps Work in Fairweather Park and Nature Preserve (7:35 p.m.)

Jahn updated Board on Earth Corps work in Fairweather Park and Nature Preserve. He indicated funds are available and permitting is in place to install at least one check dam in the stream at Fairweather. The process to close by-pass system, install check dam and reopen will take approximately four days. Funding will be proposed in the 2005 budget in order to install additional check dams.

Update on Medina Beach Park Project (7:37 p.m.)

Jahn referred Board to photograph located in the meeting packet. He commented that the dock location was moved for several reasons, including: City ordinance requiring any new or refurbished dock to be at least 12-feet away from adjacent property, second-class shoreline rights, dock-size limitation, and resident view to the east of proposed dock location. Relocation still requires the City to go through variance process for picnic table installation on the dock. Permitting has been difficult, however, if permits fall into place, goal is to have docks constructed in time for the beach season next year and beach fill/sloping completed by next fall.

Medina Park Dog Rules Survey (7:43 p.m.)

Nunn addressed park usage survey completed by a Medina resident, which was included in Board's meeting packet. Stuart expressed that the survey was informal and the study was not completed in a controlled manner. Nunn agreed. Brustkern commented that it is information to keep on hand for future reference. Jahn stressed that the survey addressed only the dog-use area and not tennis courts, playground, etc. He continued to say the survey could be submitted at some point to the Council and suggested board members discuss and document a variety of park uses each witness to create a public record in response to the survey. Board members discussed park usage each has observed on their own.

Members revisited "hitching post" idea generated from previous Park Board meeting to assist park users with separation of pets from children's area. Fleischman indicated her research of off-leash dog areas has provided information stating that good public policy requires separation of children and dogs in off-leash park areas.

Nunn offered that she hopes others are aware of the goal to make Medina Park a safe and comfortable place for all interested users, while maximizing public enjoyment of the park for everyone. Nunn commented that the intent to compromise park-use has been made and hopes recognition will be seen at some point in the future.

Discussion of Dog Owner Confrontation – Incident (8:00 p.m.)

At the request of board member O'Brien, Jahn suggested the Board discuss the safety of its members. A Bellevue resident confronted O'Brien and made inappropriate statements and threats to him. Jahn commented that the incident was reported to and followed up by the Police Department.

Jahn further mentioned that past Park Board Chair, Joseph Brazen, received a threat in the past. He commented that Brazen attempted to resolve the incident on his own; however, the person behind the threat did not appear to be willing to reconcile.

2005 Budget Discussion (8:07 p.m.)

Jahn reviewed spreadsheet included with meeting packet. Nunn suggested adding the "hitching post", leash exchange sign and utility hooks for off-leash dog area in Medina Park.

Jahn commented on the proposed improvement project to entrance area at the five-corners intersection area and suggested board members discuss improvement ideas. Discussion followed regarding signage at entrances to the City of Medina and Medina Park. Jahn will propose dismantling Medina entrance signs to the City Council.

Brustkern suggested auctioning original signage and applying funds toward replacement signs.

Discussion continued regarding specific improvements included in budget proposal.

Continued Discussion of Proposed Park Board Rules (Guidelines) (8:17 p.m.)

BOARD APPROVED RULES/GUIDELINES AS WRITTEN WITH ONE TYPO CHANGE AS DISCUSSED BY NUNN (8:18 P.M.).

BOARD AGREED TO DELETE PARK BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE POLICY (3.01) LANGUAGE FROM PAGE FOUR OF RULES/GUIDELINES (8:32 P.M.).
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STUART MOTION, FLEISCHMAN SECOND TO ADD LANGUAGE OUTLINING RULES IF CHAIR VACATES POSITION. IN SUCH SITUATION, VICE CHAIR WOULD ACT IN CHAIR POSITION IF LESS THAN THREE MONTHS REMAIN UNTIL NEXT ELECTION PERIOD; OTHERWISE BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION TO DETERMINE NEW CHAIR. IF VICE CHAIR ABSENT, NEXT MOST SENIOR MEMBER WILL ACT AS CHAIR. MOTION PASSED, ALL IN FAVOR AT 8:35 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS

Continuation of Discussion of Annual Work Plan – Strategic Planning / Vision – Short and Long Range Parks Commission Goals / Objectives and Budgeting (8:42 p.m.)

Jahn requested Board to develop a document proposing a vision statement for each park, including an itemization of improvements and improvement costs. Jahn suggested focusing on controversial, budget-oriented items, which would cause Council concern.

STUART PROPOSED TO COMPILE BOARD MEMBER RESPONSES. STUART REQUESTED TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS VIA EMAIL NO LATER THAN THE END OF WEEK SEPTEMBER 27TH. STUART WILL COMPOSE A DOCUMENT, WHICH COULD BE EDITED TOGETHER AT A FUTURE MEETING. FLEISCHMAN WILL CONTACT O'BRIEN, NUNN WILL CONTACT GERLITZ REGARDING PROPOSAL. COMMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE A VISION FOR EACH PARK. MEDINA PARK, MEDINA BEACH PARK AND FAIRWEATHER SHOULD INCLUDE ITEMIZED IMPROVEMENTS (8:49 P.M.).

OTHER BUSINESS

Jahn remarked he has been providing a Park Board update to the City Council in activity reports, but indicated this is the responsibility of the Park Board, based on the new ordinance governing Park Board Rules (8:56 p.m.).

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, October 18, 2004; 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MEETING ADJOURNED BY COMMON CONSENT AT 8:58 P.M.

Minutes taken by:

Rachel Baker
Administrative Assistant